



Terwilliger Fire Update



Southern Cascades Interagency Incident Management Team

Incident Commander, Neil Miller Incident Commander Trainee, Dirk Rogers

September 27, 2018 - 9:00 A.M.

Special Announcements: The Terwilliger Fire Area Closure implemented August 30th, 2018 by the Willamette National Forest, remains in place and is strictly enforced. Safety of the public and firefighters remains priority directive. Active fire and fire suppression operations continue on the landscape. Violators will be prosecuted. **Please refrain from entering the closed areas.**

Both Forest Service Road (FR) 19 and Terwilliger Hot Springs (also known as Cougar Hot Springs) are within the Terwilliger Area Closure. They remain closed due to unsafe conditions from gravity fall hazards including rocks, debris and fire weakened trees. The closure begins at the junction of FR 408 south to Box Canyon. **The public is asked to respect the road and area closures for protection to themselves and firefighters.**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest jointly responded to the report of the Terwilliger Fire with both aircraft and firefighter resources. Although the fire did not burn on to ODF protected lands, the agency has stayed involved with suppression actions and planning.

Acreage: 11,294; acreage increase resulted by a current infrared flight.

Cause: The fire is currently under investigation.

Completion: 80%

Public Information Phone: (541) 822-8216 Available 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Resources: Total personnel assigned – 173: 3-type 2 IA hand crews, 1-heavy lift helicopter, 1-light lift helicopter, 5-engines, 1-dozer, 4-water tender, 2-ambulances, 4-masticators, and 19-heavy equipment.

Current Fire Information: Wednesday morning Terwilliger Fire resources were requested by ODF to assist with a new fire start on private lands west of Blue River, OR. One Type 1 helicopter and one Type 3 helicopter responded to provide a coordinated air attack. Additionally two patrols, one engine and a crew assisted the suppression efforts. The fire is approximately 1 ½ miles from Willamette National Forest boundary.

All perimeters on the Terwilliger Fire are in a patrol and monitor status with emphasis on the west flank near the private lands. Fire behavior remains minimal with spread mainly through creeping and backing. Occasional torching has been observed as lichen and moss dry out providing a ladder for ground fire to move upward and short runs in Division P along the East Fork of the South Fork within the perimeter. Most fire is limited to the heavy dead and down fuels. Repair work caused by fire suppression, under direction of resource advisors, will continue throughout the fire.

A metal culvert to replace one damaged during the fire under FR 19, at Boone Creek, should be completed by the weekend. The contract scaling operation to reduce gravity hazards such as loose boulders and fire weakened trees continues moving north along FR 19. All material is being moved off-site to Strube Flat for

utilization, as determined by local forest district management. FR 19 remains closed to all travel including fire personnel during these operations.

Hazard tree falling along FR 500 is ongoing to reduce fire weakened trees along this road system. Logs will be decked for future processing.

Firefighters along with a mechanical roadside brusher are reducing ladder fuels along FR 1993. Chippers are being utilized to reduce the generated fuels.

Weather: Highs 80 to 90 degrees and minimum relative humidity near 12-22% with no precipitation expected. Ridgetop winds from the east 3-5 mph gusts to 10 mph in the early evening.

Restrictions: A Forest-wide campfire ban on the Willamette National Forest has implemented, including all campgrounds and Wilderness areas. For specific information on Forest Order 06-18-01-18-18, see the Willamette National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>.

Closures: An Area Closure has been issued by the Willamette National Forest for the protection and safety of the public and firefighters. Closure order # 06-18-01-18-19 may be viewed in its entirety at <http://go.usa.gov/xRnz7> or on [Inciweb](http://inciweb.com). Please respect the closure areas for your and firefighter safety.

Air Quality: For smoke monitoring information, see Oregon Department of Environmental Quality <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map> or <https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/> or <http://www.lrapa.org> Smoke in the nearby communities is not expected to be an issue but any smoke in the air has the potential to move into the valley so those with sensitivities should take proper precautions.

Safety Consideration: As temperatures increase, grasses and lighter fuels will continue to dry and become more susceptible to burning. So please do not park in grassy areas near trailheads or while out in the forest. If pulling a trailer, please check that chains are not dragging and creating sparks.

Information Websites: Inciweb – <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160> **Email:** terwilligerfireinfo@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/willamettewildfires/>

